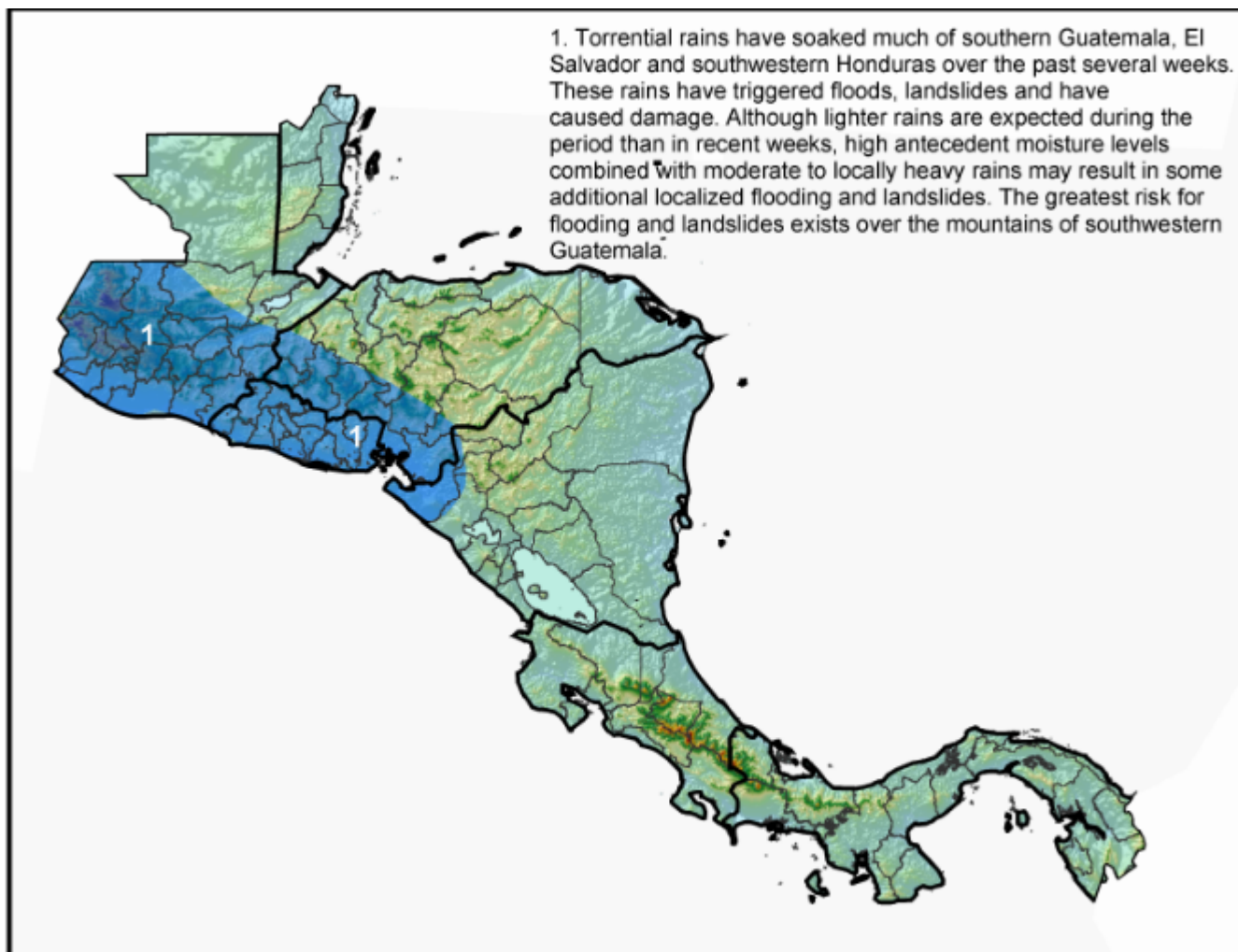


The MFEWS

Central America Weather Hazards and Benefits Assessment

June 22 - 28, 2006



1) Torrential rains have pounded much of southern Guatemala, El Salvador and southwestern Honduras for the past several weeks, with very heavy rains falling over far northwestern portions of Nicaragua as well. Since June 1, surface observations and satellite rainfall estimates indicate that anywhere from 200 to 450+ mm of rain has fallen over these areas, with the heaviest rains over the mountainous terrain of southwestern Guatemala. These rains have resulted in widespread flooding problems, as well as landslides in the mountains. Although seasonal rains are expected across the region during the period, these rains are expected to be less intense than the rains that have fallen in recent weeks. However, with high antecedent moisture levels and swollen rivers, even moderate amounts of rainfall may trigger some additional flooding and landslides. Therefore, despite the trend for improvement, the risk for flooding problems will persist across the region during the period. The greatest risk for flooding exists over the mountains of southwestern Guatemala, as this is where the heaviest rains are expected, the heaviest rains have fallen and where the terrain is most conducive to flash flooding. Elsewhere across Central America, the Primera season is doing well. Rains have started on time or somewhat early, and have been sufficient and well distributed in most locations.

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